

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03819 241227Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 PRS-01 /046 W  
-----241357Z 020585 /50  
R 232137Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0628

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3819

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINR AR (MONTES, OSCAR ANTONIO)  
SUBJECT: VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR MONTES NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER

VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES WAS SWORN IN TODAY (MAY 23) AS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP, REPLACING CONVALESCING ADMIRAL GUZZETTI. UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT, MONTES WAS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS OF THE NAVY GENERAL STAFF. MONTES, WHO WAS MENTIONED AS A CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE GUZZETTI WAS NAMED A YEAR AGO, IS KNOWN FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE, COMPETENCE, STRICT LOYALTY AND STRONG MORAL CHARACTER AND IS EXPECTED TO FAITHFULLY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF NAVY CINC MASSERA IN HIS NEW ROLE AS FOREIGN MINISTER. MILITARY CONTACTS DESCRIBE MONTES AS PRO-AMERICAN AND ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE IS ALSO SAID TO BE INTERESTED IN POLITICS.

MONTES IS NOT KNOWN FOR HIS ABILITY OR INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. HE IS REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED BY RANK AND POWER AND COULD BE SWAYED BY HIS SUPERIORS.

MILITARY SOURCES SAY THAT ALTHOUGH MONTES LACKS EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE IS A CAPABLE OFFICER, AFFABLE AND FRIENDLY IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS AND SHOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DEPART FROM POLICIES AND ATTITUDES ADOPTED DURING GUZZETTI'S TENURE. MONTES, AGE 53, HAS TAUGHT NAVAL MANAGEMENT AND SERVED AS COMMANDING OFFICER ON THE TRAINING SHIP LIBERTAD. HE WAS ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE IN RIO DE JANEIRO FROM 1970

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TO 1972, CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FROM JANUARY 1973 TO JANUARY 1974, AND COMMANDER OF PUERTO BELGRANO NAVAL BASE FROM 1974 TO 1975. MONTES HAS BEEN DECORATED BY THE SPANISH AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS. HE SPEAKS ONLY SPANISH AND APPARENTLY HAS NOT TRAVELED TO THE US.  
CHAPLIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MINISTER COUNSELORS, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR MONTES NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES WAS SWORN IN TODAY (MAY 23) AS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP, REPLACING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINR, PGOV, AR, (MONTES, OSCAR ANTONIO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009